

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00 /031 W

----- 063200

Z 222312Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 0759

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 02470

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y UP-GRADED TO CONFIDENTIAL EXDIS  
FROM UNCLASSIFIED PER R ELTZ S/S-O

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, ASEC

SUBJECT: KIDNAPING OF JOHN PATTERSON - HERMOSILLO

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 1605 HOURS ON MARCH 22, 1974  
ELMER YELTON CONSUL GENERAL HERMOSILLO CALLED VICTOR H.  
DIKEOS EMBASSY MEXICO AND REPORTED THAT VICE-CONSUL  
JOHN PATTERSON HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED. HE INDICATED  
THAT PATTERSON HAD A 1100 AM APPOINTMENT WITH MEXICAN  
OFFICIALS WHICH WAS NEVER KEPT. THE CONSULATE GENERAL  
OFFICE CLOSSES FOR LUNCH AND AT ABOUT 1400 HOURS AN  
EMPLOYEE UPON REOPENING THE OFFICE FOUND AN ENVELOPE  
ADDRESSED TO MR. YELTON. MR. YELTON READ THE FOLLOWING  
MESSAGE OVER THE TELEPHONE:

QUOTE

MR. YELTON:

I HAVE EVIDENTLY BEEN TAKEN HOSTAGE BY THE PEOPLES'  
LIBERATION ARMY OF MEXICO. THE CONDITIONS FOR MY  
RELEASE ARE SAID TO BE AS FOLLOWS:

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WHATSOEVER IS THERE TO BE ANY  
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NEWS RELEASE CONCERNING MY KIDNAPPING BEFORE OR

AFTER MY RELEASE. THEY SAY THIS BECAUSE THEY DO NOT WANT OTHERS TO ATTEMPT SIMILAR ACTIONS.

THE REQUIRED PAYMENT FOR MY RELEASE IS 500,000 DOLLARS, IT IS TO BE MADE IN TWO PAYMENTS. FIRST PAYMENT IS TO BE \$250,000, TO BE DONE IN NOGALES, MEXICO. THIS PAYMENT IS TO BE MADE FROM MY WIFE AND 'ADVANCE ASSURANCE THAT NO HARM WILL COME TO HER AND THAT SHE WILL BE PERMITTED TO TALK TO ME AT THAT TIME. THE SECOND PAYMENT IS TO BE MADE IN MEXICO CITY FOR \$250,000. MY WIFE IS TO CHECK INTO THE FREY MARCUS (SHOULD BE FREY, ACTUALLY SPELLED FRY) 'LARGEST IN NOGALES" HOTEL, AT MIDNIGHT TOMORROW NIGHT. THE PAYMENT IS TO BE MADE AT 8:00 AM SUNDAY MORNING. SHE WILL BE CONTACTED THERE. FOR THE SECOND PAYMENT SHE IS TO FLY INTO MEXICO CITY AND CHECK INTO THE HOLIDAY INN AT THE AIRPORT WHERE SHE WILL BE CONTACTED TO MAKE THE SECOND PAYMENT (SUNDAY NIGHT). I WILL BE RELEASED UPON RECEIPT OF THE 'SECOND PAYMENT'. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL THERE BE ANY KIND OF NEGOTIATIONS OR ALTERATIONS TO OUR DEMAND. ALSO, NO MEXICAN AUTHORITIES ARE TO BE TOLD OF THIS ACTION IN ANY WAY. IF WE ARE BETRAYED OR ANY MEMBER OF THE PEOPLES' LIBERATION ARMY IS ARRESTED OR DETAINED WE ARE PREPARED TO EXECUTE ONE U.S. OFFICIAL EACH WEEK OR A MEMBER OF A U.S. OFFICIAL'S FAMILY... UNTIL PERSONS (PEOPLE) ARRESTED ARE RELEASED AND ALLOWED TO LEAVE MEXICO UNHARMED. END QUOTE

THIS MESSAGE WAS READ BY AMBASSADOR JOVA TO THE OPERATIONS CENTER AT APPROXIMATELY 1630 HOURS AFTER A BRIEF MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY ACTION COMMITTEE.

2. EMBASSY PRESENTLY AWAITING DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSE BEFORE ANY NOTIFICATION TO MEXICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. JOVA

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
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